

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 6, 8, 17, 26, 35, 41, 49, 50, 56 and 57 were allowed. Claim 35 was a dependent claim, and thus, has been placed into independent form.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-16, 18-25, 27-34, 36-40, 42-48, and 51-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Herein, Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1, 9, 42 and 51 and have cancelled dependent claims 10, 19, 28, 43-48 and 51-55 without prejudice. As a result, the dependency of various claims have been modified as follows:

- (1) Dependent claims 2-5 are now dependent on allowed claim 6.
- (2) Dependent claim 7 is now dependent on allowed claim 8.
- (3) Dependent claims 11-18 are now dependent on allowed claim 17.
- (4) Dependent claims 20-25 and 27 are now dependent on allowed claim 26.
- (5) Dependent claims 29-34 are now dependent on allowed claims 35

Based on the above-identified amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the outstanding § 103(a) rejections is warranted.

**Conclusion**

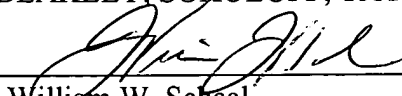
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11/24/2004

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11/24/2004

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